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## PRESS RELEASE

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES “PROGATI” TO HELP FIGHT CORRUPTION**

#### **Multi-Pronged Approach will Address Transparency and Accountability of Public Funds**

**DHAKA, JUNE 15** -- The United States Government, acting through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), recently launched PROGATI, a four-year project designed to control corruption by strengthening public oversight of government funds. PROGATI, an acronym for “Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity” will work together with government agencies, civil society organizations, NGOs and media outlets to promote improved governance of public resources.

PROGATI will introduce participatory activities in four thematic areas. First, it will work with the next Parliament and assist them with the management of national budgets and monitoring of government expenses. Second, PROGATI activities will also help monitor the usage of public resources to establish a more transparent and accountable relationship with the public. Third, to increase citizen understanding and participation in the national budget process, PROGATI will collaborate with civil society organizations that play an important role in promoting reform. Finally, the project will collaborate with media outlets and journalists to raise professional standards and build a culture of investigative journalism that encourages reporting on corruption issues.

The U.S. Government works closely with NGOs, local government and major political parties in Bangladesh to increase the country’s capacity for participatory democracy, strengthen its institutions of good governance and support its culture of tolerance. Our activities support political party reform and credible elections, promote transparent and accountable government,

support effective and participatory local governance, combat trafficking in persons, and encourage civic engagement by key leaders of influence.

The United States Government has a long history of extending assistance to Bangladesh to recover from disasters, to try to escape poverty and to engage in democratic reforms. Through USAID and other agencies, the U. S. Government's assistance to Bangladesh includes support for the return to democracy through free, fair and credible elections and more transparent and accountable governance; support for a better educated, healthier and more productive population; and assistance to increase economic opportunities through equitable economic growth, improved food security and disaster mitigation.

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## **GR/ 2008**

*Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*